(c) Steps taken/being taken by State Transport Authority, Delhi and Delhi Police to improve safe plying of buses in Delhi are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken/being taken to reduce accidents in Delhi

The following steps have been taken by STA, Delhi and Delhi Police to reduce the accidents:

1. Refresher Courses for the drivers of the public service buses were stated in November, 1992. The drivers of the buses were subjected to proficiency test. 1080 drivers have been given refresher courses/passed proficiency test at Govt. Motor Driving Training School of Transport Department till August, 1993.

2. The Transport Department, Delhi has set up a complaint cell and 117 permits of buses including 82 permits of Red Line buses were suspended/cancelled between the period April, 1993 to November, 1993 which were involved in road accidents. In addition, 17 permits of Red Line buses were suspended/cancelled on account of complaints for not following the time schedule and route violation including misbehaviour. In addition to discipline the drivers, Delhi Traffic Police prosecuted 65972 Red Line bus drivers for various offences from 1.1.1993 to 30.10.1993. 22,000 prosecutions were made by the Transport Department upto August, 1993 against Red Line buses. 2982 cases of over-speeding of Red Line buses were impounded during 1.10.92 to 31.8.1993.

3. Measures have also been taken by Transport Department to ensure strict compliance of provsions of Motor ehicle Act with regard to issue of driving licences as well a fitness of the vehicles.

The Delhi Police have also taken following steps to check the accidents.

(i) Strict and rigid enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.

(ii) Organising special drives aga rash and negligent driving, dri without licence, drunken driving red light jumping etc.

(iii) Regular prosecution of viola by issue of notice.

(iv) Introduction of traffic sign Blinkers in accident prone area.

(v) Deployment of more tr policemen in accident prone area.

(vi) Special mobile checking National Highways.

(vii) Prosecution through most dern equipment i.e. Alcometer Radar Gun.

Allocation of funds for the mainten and repair of National Highway

853. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARM Will the Minister of SURFACE TRA PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov ment have allocated the funds Rs. 100/- crores for the mainten and repair of National Highways of t States viz. Gujarat, Maharashtra Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details of allocation made by Government, s wise;

(c) whether Government have r any allocation for the maintenane repair of Ahmedabad-Bombay Sectio National Highway No. 8; and

(d) if so, what are the details ther

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRA PORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): and (b) The amounts for Mainten and Repairs of National Highways d 1993-94 released till date in respect Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya desh are as below:

State	Amount Release far (Rs. in lal
Gujarat . .	857.70
Maharashtra . .	1581.86
Mdhya Pradesh .	1071.37

(c) and (d) The distribution of funds for maintenance of National Highways including Ahmedabad-Bombay section of National Highway No. 8 is made by the States out of the allocations indicated above keeping in view the actual requirements.

Steps to improve the functioning of the Calcutta port

854. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the navigational conditions between Calcutta Port and Haldia Port are deteriorating fast;

(b) if so, what specific steps have so far been taken to improve the navigational conditions between Calcutta and Haldia; and

(c) what other steps have so far been taken to improve the general functioning of the Calcutta Port to make it competitive with other Ports like Bombay and Madras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) River Training Works like guidewall, Groynes etc. have been executed and regular maintenance dredging is being undertaken to improve the navigational conditions between Calcutta and Haldia.

(c) A number of schemes for the replacement of old assets like floating crafts handling equipments etc. and for modernisation and augmentation of existing facilities have been included in the 8th Plan to improve the general functioning of the Calcutta Port.

Extra payment made by Shipping Corporation of India

855. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated 14th June, 1993 captioned "Shipping Corporation of India to pay Dollar 20 million more than market rates for four tankers";

(b) whether any delegation of officials visited South Korea to talk to the concerned shipyards;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Minister also met the Shipyard officials;

(d) if so, what are the details of discussions;

(e) whether an enquiry will be ordered into this huge foreign exchange loss of Shipping Corporation of India; and

(f) whethre it will be possible to negotiate a downward revision of the prices of there ships.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir. However, Minister of State for Transport alongwith some officials visited South Korea for other purposes which were not connected with the construction of four tankers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Minister met shipyard personnel in connection with the proposed collaboration arrangement with the Indian Shipyards.

(e) No, Sir. The Shipping Corporation of India placing orders for the construction of four tankers at the rate of US $ 65.53 Million per vessel was quite in order. Government has, therefore, not considered it necessary to hold any enquiry in the matter.

(f) No, Sir.

Steps to reduce road accidents in Delhi

856. SHRI MAHENDER PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the spurt in road accidents in the capital since the